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BOROUGH OF TIPTON



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

(W. AULAY McLENNAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

INCLUDING THAT OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

(G. H. ACTON, M.S.I.A.)

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER,
1948

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : Alderman A. F. WELCH

Vice-Chairman : Councillor MRS. H. G. COX

The Mayor (Alderman Hampton), Alderman Jones, and Councillors Drew, Mrs. Gutteridge, Hall, Hedge, Hick, Hiron, Newey, Salter and Stott.

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

Chairman : Councillor MRS. O. GUTTERIDGE

Vice-Chairman : Councillor MRS. H. G. COX

The Mayor, Aldermen Bolton, Jones, Welch and Whitehouse
Councillors Devison, Drew, Hall, Hedge and Walters.

Co-opted Members : Mrs. M. Stokes, Mrs. M. Hall,
Mrs. L. N. Hiron, Mrs. E. Northall.

MIDWIVES ACTS COMMITTEE

Chairman : Councillor MRS. O. GUTTERIDGE

Vice-Chairman : Councillor MRS. H. G. COX

The Mayor, Aldermen Jones and Welch, Councillors Clark
Drew, Hall, Hedge, Hick, Hiron and Perkins.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

W. AULAY McLENNAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Part-time Officers of Maternity & Child Welfare

J. S. M. CONNELL, F.R.C.S. - Consulting Gynaecologist

A. M. DUFF, M.B., B.Ch. - Ophthalmologist

M. LAUDER - - - School Dental Officer

Chief Sanitary Inspector

* G. H. ACTON, M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors

W. J. HEMMINGS (appointed 1st April)

E. K. PHIPPS (appointed 1st February)

Health Visiting Staff

MRS. A. C. KING MISS L. A. POWELL MISS M. M. BYARD

MISS B. CAWDELL (resigned August, 1948)

MRS. L. BOWEN and MRS. G. MURDOCH (part-time)

Day Nursery

MRS. M. MURPHY (Matron) MISS D. BODEN (Assistant Matron)

MRS. L. COPPER and MRS. E. LAMBOURNE (Wardens)

Seven Probationers Three Domestic Staff

Clerical Staff at the Municipal Buildings

MRS. J. TRANTER MISS J. COX

(one vacancy)

Clerical Staff at the Clinic

MISS J. FISHER MISS J. STANFORD

Ambulance Staff

MRS. K. PHILPOTT (resigned) and T. DOGGETT—Drivers

B. FLETCHER—Driver reserve (resigned)

MISS N. HARPER and H. NICHOLLS—Attendants

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Health Visitors, Day Nursery staff, clerical staff at the Central Clinic and Ambulance staff were transferred to the service of the Staffordshire County Council as the Local Health Authority.

* Qualified Meat Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS,
SEDGLEY ROAD WEST,
TIPTON.

July, 1949.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1948.

The year has been a momentous one in that it has seen the transference, under the National Health Service Act, 1946, of the Maternity and Child Welfare Service, Home Nursing and the Ambulance Service to the Staffordshire County Council as Local Health Authority under Part III of the Act. Although the transfer to the control of the County Council took place on 5th July, 1948, the local administration remained in the hands of your officials for several months until the County Council, through its Area Committee, was able to take up the reins.

Under the scheme of area administration framed by the County Council under the Act, Tipton forms a part of the Rowley Regis (No. 8) Area, the other districts within that area being the Borough of Rowley Regis and the Urban District of Coseley. The population of the area is made up as follows:—

Coseley Urban District	...	...	33,020
Tipton Municipal Borough	...	...	38,610
Rowley Regis Municipal Borough	...	...	49,130
			<hr/>
			120,760

Certain statistics in the report which relate to the Maternity and Child Welfare Service are given for the period up to 4th July, 1948, but on occasions the figures for the whole year are quoted in order to provide comparison with previous years.

The report shows that the health of the Borough remains good. The birth rate continues high, being 20.87 per thousand population and the death rate 10.39 per thousand population, thus providing a considerable natural increase in population, some of which overflows into adjoining areas.

The incidence of diphtheria continues to decline, the number of cases being the lowest ever recorded, viz., 6, with no deaths from the disease.


My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the various Committees for their interest and consideration, to the staff of the department for their loyal assistance, and to the voluntary workers for their untiring help at the several welfare centres.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

W. A. McLENNAN,

Medical Officer of Health.



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SECTION I — STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	2,716
Population (1931 census)	35,814
Population 1948 (Registrar General's estimate) ...	38,610
Population (actual mid-1948)	38,848
No. of inhabited houses, 31st December, 1948 ...	9,838
Rateable Value (31st March, 1948)	£156,683
Sum represented by a penny rate (31st March, 1948)	£613.10.0

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Live Births				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	...	...	...	402	384	786
Illegitimate ... ..	...	...	...	9	11	20
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			Total ...	411	385	806
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population for 1948 is 20.87. The rate for 1947 was 22.65 and the provisional rate for England and Wales for 1948 is 17.9. The following table gives the birth rates since 1940.

Live Births (Table 1)

Year	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Legitimate	763	684	746	796	798	722	790	839	786
Illegitimate	8	13	10	23	27	23	18	26	20
Birth Rate per 1000 est. res. popn.	21.99	19.64	21.22	23.00	22.88	20.72	21.57	22.65	20.87

Stillbirths	Male	Female	Total
	10	10	20

Stillbirth Rate per 1000 live and stillbirths 24.21

The stillbirth rate per 1000 estimated population for 1948 is 0.52, the provisional figure for England and Wales being 0.42.

Stillbirths (Table 2)

Year	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Stillbirth rate per 1000 live & stillbirths.	28.84	19.83	21.97	23.97	17.86	26.14	30.01	22.59	24.21

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
	207	194	401

The crude death rate per 1000 estimated population is therefore 10.39. No comparability factor has so far been given by the Registrar General, so that comparison with England and Wales as a whole and with other areas cannot be done. However, the provisional death rate for the country as a whole for 1948 is 10.8.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	Nil
Other maternal causes	...	...	Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year.	Male	Female	Total
	18	26	44

This gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 54.59 per 1000 live births and a rate of 53.27 per 1000 live and still births. The Infantile Mortality for England and Wales for 1948 is 34 per 1000 live births.

Of the infant deaths 21 could be ascribed to congenital causes, such as premature birth, congenital weakness and congenital malformations. Twenty-eight deaths occurred within the first month of life. This gives a neo-natal death rate of 34.73 per 1000 live births.

The following table gives the causes of death during 1948.

Detailed Causes of Death (Registrar General's Figures) (Table 3)

Disease							M	F.	Total
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	11	18	29
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	5
8.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
10.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
12.	Acute Infectious Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
13.	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus	(M)	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
	Uterus	(F)	...	...	...	...	—	4	4
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	6	6	12
15.	Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	6	6
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	...	25	11	36
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
18.	Intracranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	...	15	24	39
19.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	39	31	70
20.	Other diseases of the Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	...	4	6	10
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	26	13	39
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	5	3	8
23.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	7
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	6
29.	Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
30.	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	7	11	18
32.	Congenital malformations, birth injury, infantile disease	...	...	...	...	...	6	5	11
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	5	2	7
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
35.	Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	...	6	6	12
36.	All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	21	34	55
TOTAL (all causes)							207	194	401

The following table gives the eight chief causes of death in their order.

(Table 4)

Cause of death	M.	F.	Total	% of total deaths
Heart Disease	39	31	70	17.23
Cancer	35	27	62	15.21
Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.	15	24	39	9.42
Bronchitis	26	13	39	9.42
Tuberculosis	19	15	34	8.21
Congenital malformations, etc. and prematurity	13	16	29	7.00
Violence other than suicide	9	6	15	3.62
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	4	6	10	2.42

The percentage of deaths attributed to Heart Disease has again fallen from 20.3 per cent in 1947 to 17.2 per cent in 1948. Deaths from Cancer have again increased from 12.3 per cent in 1947 to 15.2 per cent in 1948, the figure in 1946 having been 11 per cent.

The following table shows the comparative figures from the year 1940.

(Table 5)

Year	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
No. of deaths	435	458	430	409	388	394	379	414	401
Death rate per 1000 est. res. popn.	12.41	12.91	12.07	11.48	10.45	10.96	10.12	10.84	10.39
Maternal deaths	3	2	3	4	2	2	—	1	—
Maternal death rate	3.78	2.80	3.97	4.93	2.42	2.68	—	1.13	—
Infant deaths (under 1 year)	39	53	57	47	44	43	32	46	44
Infantile Mortality Rate	50.58	75.57	74.15	62.27	55.76	57.72	39.22	53.18	54.59

The table below gives the causes of infant deaths.

(Table 6)

Cause of death	From birth to 1 month (neo-natal)		From 1 to 12 months		Total infant deaths
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1. Gastro-intestinal infective disease (enteritis, diarrhoea, etc.) ...	—	—	4	1	5
2. Specific infectious disease ...	—	—	—	1	1
3. Other infective conditions (broncho-pneumonia, bronchitis etc.)	—	—	2	5	7
4. Non-infective conditions ...	1	3	1	—	5
5. Congenital malformations ...	1	2	—	—	3
6. Obstetrical injuries ...	—	2	—	—	2
7. Serious accidents ...	—	—	1	1	2
8. Unknown causes:—					
(a) Prematurity ...	8	10	—	—	18
(b) Other conditions ...	—	1	—	—	1
TOTAL	10	18	8	8	44
	28		16		

SECTION II — PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following tables give particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases and the number of deaths certified as due to these.

Notifications of Infectious Diseases (Table 7)

Disease	Number of cases notified							
	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Scarlet Fever	99	105	143	284	131	55	54	74
Diphtheria	135	100	132	78	54	19	8	6
Measles	562	425	239	47	481	23	554	319
Whooping Cough ...	225	198	90	154	61	84	86	49
Pneumonia	122	133	111	74	42	70	30	24
Erysipelas	20	25	11	13	9	7	5	8
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	5	2	6	1	4	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	5	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	4	7	1	4	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	5	3	2	—	3	1	1
Encephalitis Lethargica..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Deaths from Infectious Diseases (Table 8)

Disease	No. of deaths (Registrar General's figures)							
	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Diphtheria	13	4	11	3	2	—	—	—
Measles	5	2	—	—	2	—	3	—
Whooping Cough ...	9	5	2	2	1	1	3	—
Pneumonia	33	27	29	23	20	13	14	8
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	—	1	—	3	1	2	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Acute Inf. Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

Analysis of Notifications according to Age Groups (Table 9)

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Whooping Cough
Under 1 year	—	—	15	5
1 — 3	6	2	77	14
3 — 5	20	3	110	13
5 — 10	26	1	108	14
10 — 15	12	—	6	2
15 — 25	8	—	1	—
25 and over	2	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	2	1
TOTALS	74	6	319	49

Age Groups	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	C.S. Meningitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
0 — 1 yr.	3	—	—	1
1 — 5 yrs.	6	—	—	—
5 — 15	8	2	—	—
15 — 45	4	4	—	—
45 — 65	—	—	—	—
65 and over	3	2	—	—
TOTALS	24	8	—	1

No unusual incidence of any infectious disease has occurred during 1948. The number of cases of diphtheria fell to 6, the lowest number ever recorded in Tipton.

Measles was prevalent in 1948 but no deaths were ascribed to it.

The incidence of pneumonia was especially low and here again the lowest recorded number of notifications was reached, viz., 24, again due to the exceptional mildness of the winter months of 1948. No case of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) was notified.

The number of notifications of whooping cough has again fallen to 49, compared with 86 for the year 1947, and it is considered that the immunisation against whooping cough which has been carried out by the Council at its various infant welfare centres has been in a measure responsible for this.

Tuberculosis (Table 10)

Notifications of Tuberculosis during the last 10 years.

Year	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Totals
1939	41	16	57
1940	33	4	37
1941	52	7	59
1942	59	7	66
1943	57	12	69
1944	55	4	59
1945	65	8	73
1946	54	17	71
1947	66	8	74
1948	61	12	73

Analysis of Notifications according to Age Groups (Table 11)

Age Groups	New Cases					Removals from Register on account of Death, Revised Diagnosis, Recovery, Transfers (position at 31.12.48)				
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
0—1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	1	2	4	7	—	—	—	3	3
5—15	3	2	2	1	8	—	3	4	1	8
15—25	13	10	1	—	24	4	7	1	1	13
25—35	8	6	—	1	15	4	5	—	1	10
35—45	7	2	—	—	9	8	3	—	—	11
45—55	5	—	—	—	5	3	2	—	—	5
55—65	2	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	3
Over 65	2	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	2
TOTALS	40	21	5	7	73	24	20	5	6	55

The total number of cases of tuberculosis on the register at 31st December, 1948, was 442 pulmonary and 164 non-pulmonary.

Tuberculosis of the pulmonary type is essentially capable of being prevented, and it seems that a profound disservice has been done to the cause of tuberculosis by its segregation as a service along with the hospital services, which are almost entirely curative. The preventive powers of Medical Officers of Health have been seriously infringed upon by the changes in hospital administration brought about by the National Health Service Act, and the possibility of achieving the admission of a case to hospital or sanatorium through the good offices of the Tuberculosis Officer made more remote than before.

The rehousing of cases of tuberculosis was the subject of report by me to the Housing Committee some time ago, but it was considered that the revision of the house allocation ("points") scheme would ensure the necessary priority being given to such cases. In some cases this priority has not been achieved and it appears to me of the first importance in the prevention of tuberculosis and especially tuberculosis of the lungs, that such cases should be dealt with specially and given priority over all others.

Table 10 shows that the average number of cases notified annually since the war (73) is greater than the average of the war years (58).

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.

The number of cases of diphtheria has fallen in 1948 to the low figure of 6, the figure for 1947 having been 8. There is no doubt that this low incidence is due in large measure to the immunisation against diphtheria which is encouraged at the infant welfare centres and by the Health Visitors and Sanitary Inspectors. Most children are immunised between the eighth and tenth month and if the child has not been brought to the clinic for immunisation after eleven months, a birthday card is sent as a reminder on the child's first birthday. This procedure has proved effective in many cases.

Reference to Table 7 will show that the number of cases of diphtheria has steadily decreased from 132 in 1943 to 6 in 1948.

For four years immunisation against whooping cough has been combined with that against diphtheria where this has been requested by the parent, and it is the considered opinion of the Health Visitors and myself that appreciable results have been obtained in mitigating the severity of attack and possibly also in complete prevention, although proof of this latter is difficult to obtain.

With the kind co-operation of other Medical Officers of Health some comparative figures were obtained from other "Black Country" Boroughs and Urban Districts in which immunisation against whooping cough had not been practised, but the numbers of cases notified, the deaths and the attack rate per 1000 popula-

tion indicated no statistical significance in the figures obtained compared with those of Tipton.

The transference of the immunisation services to the Staffordshire County Council on 5th July, 1948, has resulted in a discontinuance of this service, since the County Medical Officer of Health considers that the efficacy of whooping cough immunisation is still doubtful.

Although experiments are being conducted in several large towns at present, definite conclusions have not yet been reached by the Medical Research Council. Several American series of cases, however, have shown a considerable measure of success attending immunisation by whooping cough vaccine.

Among 804 children treated with whooping cough vaccine no severe reactions were seen.

It seems unfortunate that what might have proved a valuable piece of research work which was being done by this Authority has been stopped.

In none of the six cases of diphtheria notified had the child completed a course of immunisation.

The number of children immunised during 1948 was as follows:

(Table 12)

	1st January to 4th July	5th July to 31st December	Total
Primary immunisations	216	278	494
" Boost " doses	506	96	602

The giving of "boost" doses of immunising material was undertaken in large measure at the schools among school entrants by Dr. H. Summers, the Assistant County School Medical Officer, and he has kindly supplied me with the figures which relate to the Tipton Borough area.

Scabies.

The following numbers were treated for scabies at the Central Clinic:—

School children	...	...	58
Workers	...	...	4
Pre-school children	...	...	21
Mothers of young children	...	...	16
			<hr/> 99

In addition the heads of 10 children were cleansed from vermin or nits.

These figures relate only to the period up to 4th July, 1948.

SECTION III — GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

A — Maternity & Child Welfare.

(a) Midwifery Service.

Eleven midwives gave notification of their intention to practise midwifery in the Borough. Not all were practising at the one time, however. Three of them conducted occasional cases in the area and were resident outside. Four of the midwives were employed by the Tipton District Nursing Association.

The number of cases attended in their own home was 657. Fifty-six cases were referred to Hallam Hospital, West Bromwich, on account of abnormalities of pregnancy or labour.

(b) Premature Infants.

During the period 1st January, 1948 to 4th July, 1948, the number of premature babies whose mothers were normally resident in Tipton was 17, and 8 of those were born in hospital or nursing home. It was considered necessary to send 5 of those born at home into hospital. Ten premature children died on account of their prematurity, 6 at home and 4 in hospital, and of these 10, seven died within 24 hours of birth. The removal of premature infants to hospital by ambulance and their care at home is greatly facilitated by specially heated cots which are available on request by doctor or midwife.

(c) Child Welfare Clinics.

The Central Clinic continued to function efficiently and the three branch clinics, although all in hired premises, continued to provide weekly centres where mothers could take their infants for advice and consultation. The four centres each held weekly sessions at which the Medical Officer of Health attended. The attendances are given below:—

Number of attendances at all centres during 1948.

	1st Jan. to 4th July	4th July to 31st Dec.	Total
i. By children under 1 year	4190	3604	7794
ii. By children between 1 and 5 years	1099	1195	2294

The comparable totals for 1947 are (i) 7484 and (ii) 1859.

The total number of children who first attended at the centres during the year and who on the date of their first attendance were under one year of age was 512, being 63.5 per cent of the notified live births. The comparative figure for 1947 was 60.5 per cent.

The following defects were found in children attending the Welfare Centres.

Improper feeding	...	...	41
Phimosis	...	...	47
Constipation	...	...	37
Umbilical hernia	...	...	29
Diarrhoea and vomiting	...	...	23
General debility	...	...	9
Skin diseases	...	...	11
Enlarged tonsils and adenoids	...	...	5
Squint	...	...	5
Other eye defects	...	...	8
Malnutrition	...	...	2
Rickets	...	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	1
Crippling defects	...	...	2
Inguinal hernia	...	...	7
Miscellaneous	...	...	91

The Minor Ailment Clinic was utilised for the daily treatment of appropriate cases, others were referred to ophthalmic surgeon, hospital or general practitioner as the case required.

One case of ophthalmia neonatorum was notified during the year. Vision was unimpaired.

The work of the dental clinic for children under five and for expectant and nursing mothers is shown in the figures supplied by Miss Lauder, Assistant County Dental Officer.

Pre-natal.	New cases	...	15
	Return visits	...	33
Post natal.	New cases	...	9
	Return visits	...	65

(This figure includes return visits paid by the pre-natal cases after the baby's arrival.)

Permanent fillings	...	...	26
Dressings	...	...	3
Scalings	...	...	6
Extractions of permanent teeth	...	...	108
Administration of gas	...	...	18
No. of visits for advice and inspection	...	...	31
No. of dentures fitted	...	...	7
No. of visits for preparation of dentures	...	...	29
No. of visits for easing of dentures	...	...	3
No. of repairs fitted	...	...	1

(d) Pre-natal Clinic.

Mr. J. S. M. Connell, F.R.C.S., continued to conduct the weekly pre-natal clinic. 285 fresh patients attended during the year and 403 patients who were in attendance previously. Thirty-six patients were referred to Hallam Hospital on account of abnormality or for further investigation.

Toxaemia of pregnancy ...	...	8
Disproportion ...	...	3
Induction of labour ...	...	5
Caesarian section ...	...	2
Version ...	...	4
Threatened abortion ...	...	1
Cardiac abnormality ...	...	2
X-ray investigation ...	...	6
Observation and investigation (reason not given) ...	...	5
		<hr/> 36 <hr/>

(e) Health Visiting.

The number of visits paid by the Health Nurses during the year was as follows:—

	1st January to 4th July		5th July to 31st December		Total
	First Visits	Total	First Visits	Total	
To expectant mothers ...	214	276	313	367	643
To children under 1 year ...	344	548	459	961	1509
To children from 1 to 5 yrs.	—	659	—	1010	1669

The comparative figures for 1947 are:—

To expectant mothers ...	1077
To children under 1 year ...	2036
To children from 1 to 5 yrs.	2327

(f) Illegitimate Children.

During the year 20 illegitimate children were born in Tipton and in most cases were cared for at home. In several instances, however, it was necessary to refer to the social worker of the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare for assistance in connection with the mother while expectant and the child.

(g) Nursing in the Home.

The home nursing service was provided by the Tipton District Nursing Association during the period up to 4th July, after which date the district nurses were taken over by the Staffordshire County Council as Local Health Authority.

(h) Day Nursery.

The day nursery of 55 places has continued to play an important part in the care of children whose mothers are widowed or whose fathers are rendered unfit for work or continued work and where the mother has to replace the father as breadwinner. The waiting list is considerable.

Regular medical inspection is performed and all entrants are seen soon after admission. Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is done with the parent's consent, if not performed prior to admission.

(i) Ambulance Service.

The ambulance personnel has rendered highly satisfactory service during the year. One vehicle was involved in an accident, which meant a few weeks off the road, and the other has been completely overhauled and given a reconditioned engine unit.

The health services detailed under this section passed into the hands of the Staffordshire County Council on 5th July, 1948, as the Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

It is with regret that I record the severance of my association with the clinical duties which fell to my lot as your Medical Officer of Health, and can only hope that, as Area Medical Officer for the Rowley Regis Area (No. 8) of the County, which includes the Borough of Rowley Regis and the Urban District of Coseley, as well as Tipton, I shall be able to do more for the mothers and children.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the sanitary administration of the Borough for the year 1948.

The total number of visits paid by the Sanitary Inspectors totalled 4865 as against 4347 in 1947.

During the year a large amount of work has been devoted to inspections under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, and to the new Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations issued under this Act. In this connection it is gratifying to record the improvement in a number of food preparation premises in respect of the standard of cleanliness of premises and equipment.

The Ministry of Food Centralised Slaughterhouse again occupied a considerable proportion of time and attention by the staff in Meat Inspection, and 45701 animals were slaughtered and inspected during the year as compared with 43536 during 1947.

The results of milk samples taken for analysis show splendid improvement and were practically 100% satisfactory. This undoubtedly has been brought about by the improvement and modernisation of buildings and dairy plant.

The condition of some of the old worn-out and insanitary dwellings in the Borough is still one of concern to the Department and it was necessary during the year to take demolition action under the Housing Act on 20 houses owing to the unsafe structural condition.

Comments on other branches of work carried out are given in later pages.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their confidence, the Medical Officer of Health for his encouragement and support, and the whole of the staff for their able and active co-operation.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. H. ACTON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector

SECTION IV.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH

The number of visits and inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors totalled 4865 and is summarised below.

In addition 547 preliminary notices and 76 statutory notices were served under the Public Health Act.

Summary of Visits, Inspections, etc., made.

Houses inspected under the Public Health & Housing Acts	483
Re-inspections in respect of notices served	1616
No. of nuisances discovered in course of district inspection	168
Visits to Centralised Government Slaughterhouse and private slaughter	752
Visits under the Factory Act	130
Visits re overcrowding, rehousing, demolitions, etc. ...	353
Visits to tents, vans, sheds, etc.	12
Visits to markets	41
Visits to cowsheds, dairies, milkshops	24
Visits re Petroleum Regulations	105
Visits re defective and obstructed drains	271
Visits to vermin-infested and dirty houses	53
Visits re infectious and contagious diseases	152
Visits under the Shops Act	48
Visits to Shops, Canteens, etc., re unsound food	72
Visits under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act	20
Visits to Food Premises under the Food & Drugs Act., etc.	228
Visits to cinemas and schools	18
Visits to canal boats	14
Visits to stables	3
Visits re smoke abatement	16
Miscellaneous visits	286
Total	4865

Infectious Diseases

No. of visits made by the Sanitary Inspectors	152
No. of disinfections carried out	112

Disinfestation, etc.

77 Council houses and 18 privately owned dwellinghouses infested with vermin were fumigated (Cimex fumigators, Gammexane Generators) and treated with liquid insecticides having a D.D.T. base, and in certain cases D.D.T. powder and Gammexane were used. Also the household effects of 85 families from private houses were fumigated and removed by the Local Authority into Council houses.

Owing to the difficulty of obtaining removal of household effects by Private Removal Contractors, the Local Authority carried out the work and the household effects of 57 families were removed into Council houses at a very moderate charge.

Canal Boats

13 canal boats were inspected and 3 caution notices sent to the Owners in respect of infringements of Regulations. These infringements have been remedied.

Offensive Trades

There are 3 premises where offensive trades are carried on. These were regularly inspected and found to be satisfactory.

Shops Act, 1934

48 visits were paid to shops in the Borough, and where necessary, action has and is being taken to ensure that the provisions of the above Act are complied with.

Inspection on Complaint

The number of complaints registered during the year was 653 as against 697 in 1947.

Statement of Removal of Sanitary Defects and Nuisances in and around Dwellings, etc.

During the year under review 547 preliminary and 76 statutory notices were served for the abatement of nuisances and the remedy of sanitary defects in and around dwellings and the following table shows the nature of the work actually carried out.

Nature of work done	No.
Houses.	
Roofs repaired	260
Eavesguttering & rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	110
Chimney stacks repaired	30
External walls rebuilt, repaired or cement rendered	28
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	183
Bedrooms and living rooms renovated	7
Dirty houses cleansed	4
Floors repaired or renewed	56
Fixed windows made to open	4
Windows and frames repaired or renewed	99
Windows provided with new sash cords	73
Doors repaired or renewed	25
General house fittings repaired or renewed (boilers, fire ranges, etc.)	31
Staircases repaired or renewed	16
Separate water supply provided	16
Additional washhouses provided	3
Washing facilities provided	2
Glazed sinks provided in lieu of brick and quarry sills	17
Sinks renewed	2
Sink waste pipes renewed	12
Washhouses rebuilt or repaired	64
Water supply laid on to washhouses	8

Chimney flues repaired	...	...	...	...	11
Washhouse coppers, firegrates, etc., renewed	...	...	...	...	25
Water supply pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	57
Covers to cellar areas renewed	...	...	...	...	5
Water service pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Verandahs repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Drainage.					
Drains opened or cleansed	...	...	...	...	246
Main drains repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	4
W.C. branch drains repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	12
Waste and surface water drains repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	2
Additional inspection chambers installed	...	...	...	...	2
Inspection chambers repaired	...	...	...	...	5
New covers to inspection chambers	...	...	...	...	14
Ventilation pipes renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Additional gullies to drains provided	...	...	...	...	2
New intercepting and gully traps fitted	...	...	...	...	1
Soil pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Yards, Passages, etc.					
Yard and passage surfaces repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Yard boundary walls repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Passage surfaces repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Closets.					
Additional water closets provided	...	...	...	...	7
W.C. buildings repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	64
New W.C. pedestal pans fitted	...	...	...	...	48
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	28
Flush pipes, water supply pipes, etc., repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	84
Seats to W.C. pans renewed	...	...	...	...	14
Midden privies and pail closets abolished	...	...	...	...	2
Waste water closets converted to fresh water closets	...	...	...	...	2
Insanitary box seats to W.C.'s abolished	...	...	...	...	4
Accumulations.					
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	10
Stagnant water removed	...	...	...	...	5
General.					
Stables limewashed and cleansed	...	...	...	...	2
Insanitary stables discontinued	...	...	...	...	1
Keeping of animals so as to be a nuisance discontinued	...	...	...	...	2
Housing of caravans so as to be a nuisance discontinued	...	...	...	...	2
Burning of trade refuse discontinued	...	...	...	...	2
Emanation of dust from works, discontinued	...	...	...	...	2

Results of Legal Proceedings.

Situation of premises	Nature of complaint	Acts under which proceedings instituted	Results
11, Griffiths St.	Defective floorboards	Public Health Act, 1936	Nuisance Order granted (28 days)
116 & 116a, Dudley Port	Dilapidated wash-house & W.C. buildings	" "	Nuisance Order granted (28 days)
" "	" "	" "	Fined 40/- for failure to abate Nuisance Order
66 & 68, Davis Avenue	Defective floors.	" "	Summons withdrawn on payment of costs.

Water Supply.

In accordance with Ministry of Health circular 3/49, the following report is submitted on the water supply in Tipton.

- Whether the water supply for the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory in (a) quality, (b) quantity.

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

- Where there is a pipe supply whether bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water and where treatment is installed of the water going into supply, if so, how many and the results obtained; the results of any chemical analyses:—

Bacteriological examinations numbered 48, the results of which were all satisfactory.

All the results of chemical analyses were satisfactory.

- Where the waters are liable to have plumbo-solvent action, the facts as to contamination by lead, including precautions taken and the number and results of analyses:—

The water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

- Action in respect of any form of contamination:—

No contamination reported.

- Particulars of the proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of the population supplied from the public water mains (a) direct to houses and (b) by means of stand pipes:—

		Proportion of houses	Proportion of population
(a) Direct to houses	... ..	88.5	85%
(b) By means of stand pipes	3.1% }	11.5	15%
Laid on to washhouses	8.4% }		

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, and the Infestation Order, 1943.

The following premises were dealt with during the year. The poisons used are those recommended by the Ministry of Food.

1. Surface Treatment.

	No. of premises visited	No. of treatments	Total Visits
(i) Factories, Shops, etc. ...	31	45	179
(ii) Dwelling houses ...	24	24	75
Total ...	<u>55</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>254</u>

2. Sewer Treatment.

Two maintenance treatments for the destruction of rats were carried out and the following results obtained:—

Total manholes baited	1328
Manholes with complete takes on two days pre-baiting	130
Manholes with partial pre-bait takes	163
Manholes with no partial pre-bait takes	1035

The above figures show that previous treatment of the sewers had substantially reduced the rat population.

Factories Act, 1937

The number of factories on the register number 177, and during the year 130 visits were paid to factories. The following table shows the number of defects found and remedied.

Part 1 of the Act.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	28	10	10	—
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	147	51	28	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	2	—	—	—
TOTAL	177	61	38	—

Cases in which defects were found (if defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	6	5	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	1	—	—	1	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	2	1	—	1	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences: (a) Insufficient	4	6	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	21	14	—	11	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	2	—	2	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork).	1	2	—	1	—
TOTAL	38	31	—	17	—

Outworkers

Names and addresses of 411 outworkers engaged at factories in the Borough were notified to this Department in accordance with Sections 110 and 111 of the Factory Act.

Of the 411 addresses supplied, 178 were situated outside the Borough.

No irregularities were discovered.

SECTION V.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

During the year 617 visits were paid to the Ministry of Food Centralised Slaughterhouse, and 135 visits were made re private slaughter of pigs, by the Sanitary Inspectors. The number of animals inspected was 45701, made up as follows:—

Beasts	...	...	...	...	...	8662
Calves	...	...	...	...	...	6470
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	...	...	...	24395
Pigs (including 168 pigs at private premises)						6174
						<u>45701</u>

In addition 72 visits were paid to Food Shops, Canteens and other premises for the inspection of unsound food.

The total amount of meat and other foodstuffs condemned as being unfit for human consumption was as follows:—

Description of Food	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Butcher's meat from Centralised Slaughterhouse, etc. ...	117	17	0	12
Butter and Margarine ...	—	1	0	6
Cheese ...	—	3	0	4
Bacon, etc. ...	—	—	1	1
Fish, including Shellfish ...	—	1	1	16
Fruit and Vegetables ...	—	—	2	1
Miscellaneous ...	—	—	2	16
CANNED & BOTTLED GOODS.				
Canned Meat ...	2	1	3	26
Canned Fish ...	—	1	2	15
Canned Milk ...	—	1	2	18
Canned or bottled Vegetables and Fruit ...	—	2	0	8
Canned or bottled Jams ...	—	—	1	22
Bottled Orange Juice ...	—	2	0	13
Miscellaneous ...	—	—	2	20
TOTAL	120	14	2	10

The undermentioned table shows the total carcasses inspected and the number condemned and the carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned at the Government Centralised Slaughterhouse.

It is gratifying to note the large increase in the number of pigs slaughtered during the year. The percentage of cows affected with generalised or localised tuberculosis is again very high. The majority of these animals affected with generalised tuberculosis are sent into the Abattoir as "manufacturing rejects." Parasitic diseases account mostly for the large number of organs condemned.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

(Return as required by the Ministry of Health)

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	5442 (5167)	3220 (3612)	6470 (6154)	24395 (24604)	6174 incl. 168 killed at private premises (3999)
Number inspected	5442 (5167)	3220 (3612)	6470 (6154)	24395 (24604)	6174 (3999)
All Diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcasses condemned	4 (2)	43 (28)	78 (29)	43 (60)	21 (4)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1176 (1275)	1108 (1172)	29 (25)	1886 (2613)	160 (48)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis	21.68 (24.67)	32.75 (32.44)	1.65 (0.37)	7.91 (10.62)	2.93 (1.20)
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned	19 (6)	79 (107)	17 (13)	— (—)	5 (4)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	689 (546)	1245 (1325)	— (7)	— (—)	455 (282)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	13.01 (10.68)	41.12 (39.64)	0.26 (0.32)	— (—)	7.29 (7.17)

(Government Centralised Slaughterhouse catering for the Boroughs of Oldbury, Rowley Regis, Tipton and West Bromwich.)

Figures in brackets are for the year 1947.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

46 applications for the renewal of existing licences to slaughter or stun animals under the above Act were granted. Three new licences were also granted.

Tuberculosis Order, 1938

3 cows were sent into the Centralised Slaughterhouse by Veterinary Officers under the above Order; of these one was affected with generalised tuberculosis and the remainder with localised tuberculosis.

Food & Drugs Act, 1938

During the year 228 visits were paid to food premises, and particular attention was directed to bringing food preparation rooms up to a better hygienic standard and for a higher standard of cleanliness in respect of personnel engaged. It is gratifying to record that in most cases there has been a marked improvement, especially in regard to the provision of adequate protective equipment and clothing, a proper and sufficient hot water supply, the increasing use of sodium hypochlorites as detergents, and last but not least a willingness by some food traders to bring their premises up to a higher hygienic standard than heretofore.

Ice Cream. 12 applications were received for registration of premises under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act for the "Sale Only" of ice cream, and 11 of these were granted and the remaining one refused by the Local Authority. The following is a classification of the premises now in use:—

- (a) Premises registered for manufacture, sale and storage 3
- (b) Premises registered for the sale of a "Cold Mix" 11
- (c) Premises registered for the "Sale Only" 54

In respect of the 54 premises registered for "Sale Only," 95% provide wrapped ice cream and the remaining 5% loose.

37 samples of ice cream manufactured in and outside the Borough were taken for bacteriological examination; of these 29 were satisfactory and 8 unsatisfactory in respect of hygiene quality.

In respect of the unsatisfactory samples, some difficulty was experienced in plant operation with one manufacturer which accounted for several unsatisfactory samples; this was subsequently remedied. The other unsatisfactory samples came from sources outside the Borough.

It is true to say that the general standard of ice cream manufacture and sale in the Borough is satisfactory.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936/1946.

The following licences under the above Order were in force:
Two Dealers Bottling licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk.
Two Dealers Pasteurisers licences for Pasteurised Milk.
Four Dealers Retailers licences for Pasteurised Milk.
Seven Dealers Retailers licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk.
Ten Supplementary licences in respect of Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised Milk.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

29 samples of milk were obtained by this Authority during the year for bacteriological examination (27 for examination as to cleanliness and 2 for the presence of T.B. bacilli) and the results of same are shown in the following table.

The two samples of accredited milk were taken in course of delivery from farms situated outside the Borough to dairies inside the Borough, and one of these samples was unsatisfactory.

It is interesting to note that all the samples of heat treated milk were found to be satisfactory, which shows a great improvement on results obtained in previous years.

Grade of Milk	No. of samples	Tests Applied	Results	
			Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
1. Pasteurised	9	Methylene Blue Phosphatase	9 9	
2. Accredited	2	Methylene Blue Coliform Organisms	1 1	1 1
3. Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	4	Methylene Blue Phosphatase	4 4	
4. Heat Treated	2	Methylene Blue Phosphatase	2 2	
5. Sterilised	10	Methylene Blue Phosphatase	10 10	
6. Raw	2	T.B. bacilli content	Neg.	

Summary of Percentages.

Milk examined for efficiency of Heat Treatment
(Phosphatase Test) ... 100% satisfactory

Milk examined for its keeping qualities
(Methylene Blue Test) ... 96.3% satisfactory

SECTION VI.—HOUSING (Joint Report)

The number of new houses erected in the Borough during 1948 is as follows:—

No. of Corporation houses completed ...	198	}	208
No. of houses privately built	10		

The number of new houses completed in 1947 was 290, composed of 254 by the Corporation and 36 privately. The need for houses is still acute.

Individual Unfit Houses

The following 20 houses were represented under the Housing Act, 1936, as being unfit for human habitation on account of their dilapidated and unsafe structural condition and Demolition Orders were made by the Council in each case.

110a, Leabrook Road.
35, Providence Street.
3 and 4, Court 1, Providence Street.
54, Bloomfield Road.
4 and 5, Court 7, Bloomfield Road.
28, Hurst Lane.
28, The Coppice.
3 and 4, Court 5, Newcross Street.
8, Newhall Street.
88 and 89, Lower Church Lane.
80 and 81, Dudley Port.
1, Barrett Street.
54, Upper Church Lane.
1b, Churchyard Road.
44a, Horseley Heath.

During the year 20 houses previously condemned under the Housing Act were demolished.

The following table shows the total number of houses dealt with under the Housing Act from 1932, the commencement of the Scheme, to 31st December, 1948.

	Total No. of houses	Total number demolished	Total No. of persons displaced
91 Clearance Areas	1321	1301	6216
Individual unfit houses and caravans in respect of which Demolition Orders have been made.	520	476	2422
Parts of buildings in respect of which Closing Orders have been made.	13	1	69
Individual unfit houses in respect of which undertakings have been accepted.	4	—	21
Individual unfit houses and caravans demolished in anticipation of Demo- lition Orders.	5	5	23
TOTAL	1863	1783	8751

Requisitioned and Licensed Dwelling Houses.

There are still 6 requisitioned and 9 houses licensed under the Defence Regulations. Arrangements have been made under the "Points" scheme for the families occupying them to be rehoused.

Overcrowding

During the year 127 families living in overcrowded conditions were rehoused into Council houses under the "Points" scheme, leaving approximately 575 cases yet to be dealt with.

It will be noticed from the figures given in the following table that the average number of persons per house and room shows a continued decline from 1921.

Year	No. of houses in the Borough.	Average number of persons per house.	Average number of persons per room.
1921	7375	4.63	1.14
1931	7796	4.60	1.11
1946	9308	4.0	0.92
1947	9598	4.0	0.91
1948	9838	3.94	0.91

Rehousing

Statement showing the number of families rehoused into Council houses during 1948.

Lodgers rehoused from	No. of persons in families rehoused						Total No. of families rehoused	Total No. of persons rehoused	No. of cases of over- crowding	Percentage of overcrowd- ing cases
	2 p.	3 p.	4 p.	5 p.	6 p.	7 p.				
(a) Council houses	7	28	21	16	3	1	76	287	76	100%
(b) Private houses	9	33	28	12	3	2	87	321	51	58.6%
TOTAL	16	61	49	28	6	3	163	608	127	77.9%

Tenants rehoused from	No. of persons in families rehoused									Total No. of families rehoused	Total No. of persons rehoused	No. of cases of over- crowding	Percentage of overcrowd- ing cases
	1 p.	2 p.	3 p.	4 p.	5 p.	6 p.	7 p.	8 p.	9 p.				
(a) Private houses	-	1	10	22	27	8	9	3	3	83	417	51	61.4%
(b) Houses condemned under the Housing Act.	1	-	5	8	6	-	-	-	1	21	87	5	23.8%
(c) Requi- sitioned or licensed houses.	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	4	19	1	25.0%
TOTAL	1	1	15	32	34	9	9	3	4	108	523	57	52.8%

Summary

Total families rehoused	...	...	...	...	...	271
Total number of persons rehoused	...	...	...	...	...	1131
No. of cases of overcrowding relieved	...	...	...	...	...	184
Percentage of overcrowding cases of families rehoused	...	...	...	...	...	67.9

General Remarks

Some attempt has been made during the year to deal with houses which are in an unsafe condition and Demolition Orders in respect of 20 houses have been made by the Council under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. However, most of the unfit property in the town will have to await the time when the Ministry of Health gives authority for unfit houses to be dealt with in Clearance Areas.

In order that the Council may know in advance the precise extent of the problem confronting it, we have conducted a survey of all property in the Borough with the object of broadly dividing it into four categories, and the following table is self-explanatory :

Houses in a satisfactory condition	...	...	6825
Houses requiring minor repairs	...	...	680
Houses requiring major repairs and structural alterations (this includes back-to-back houses convertible into one house)	...	...	1083
Houses which are unfit and require demolition	...	...	1250
			<hr/> 9838 <hr/>

